

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 27, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FAULKNER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

**REPORT:**

[To accompany H. R. 2537.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the act (H. R. 2537) to increase the pension of James A. Underwood, have examined the same and report:

Your committee adopt the report, hereto annexed, of the House Committee on Pensions and recommend that the act do pass

HOUSE REPORT.

Claimant's pension was increased to \$30 by special act of Congress in 1886. The Committee on Invalid Pensions submitted the following report at that time, which is adopted by your committee as a part of this report:

"We find that claimant enlisted August 20, 1861, in Company B, Eighth Indiana Volunteers, and was discharged September 14, 1863.

"February, 1864, he applied for a pension for loss of left arm at battle of Vicksburg, which was granted, and for which he is now receiving a pension of \$24 per month.

"May 22, 1885, he applied for an increase on account of chronic diarrhea and erysipelas, which was rejected on the ground that the combined disabilities were not equal to total inability to perform manual labor. Two of his neighbors swear that he is unable to perform any manual labor whatever. December 4, 1876, Dr. W. W. Spiers, United States medical examiner, says:

"I find that left forearm has been amputated at upper third; considerable sloughing has occurred from gangrene, leaving a stump with very tender cicatrix. Claimant states that two years ago an eruption broke out on his left arm and spread all over his body—continued nine weeks—was confined to his bed four weeks—muscles of leg were contracted—went on crutches for a while. Last August eruption came out on biceps muscles of left arm; lasted two weeks; comes out in warm weather. I find no eruption now. I think it is not erysipelas, but a vesicular eruption resulting from chronic diarrhea. His gums are badly eaten by scurvy. There is not much emaciation, but his weight is some less than it ought to be. Rated total third grade for loss of arm and \$4 for diarrhea."

"June 24, 1885, the examining board at Ellsworth, Kans., report him suffering with chronic diarrhea, and recommend \$4 per month in addition to his pension for loss of arm. The evidence shows that he is at times confined to his bed for weeks with chronic diarrhea and the resulting eruptions, which he calls erysipelas. The man is a complete wreck, and it would seem that the evidence would entitle him to the full rating given to those totally disabled for the performance of manual labor. The examining boards recommend \$28 per month. There is no such rating provided by law. Your committee recommend the passage of the bill."

Your committee would further state that the evidence shows a decided increase in claimant's disabilities, the chronic diarrhea developing in hemorrhoids causing frequent loss of blood; also fistula in ano of severe form. The combined disabilities without the loss of arm would be sufficient to totally incapacitate the claimant for the performance of any manual labor. As claimant's present rating was fixed by special act, his pension can not be increased by the Bureau of Pensions. Therefore in view of the above facts your committee make favorable report and recommend that the bill do pass.